

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 MC-02 NSCE-00 ACDA-05

OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01

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O R 291225Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1572

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AEMBASSY ROME 1380

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION2 OF 2 COPENHAGEN 2808

9. CONVERSATION THEN TURNED TO WHAT PRIMIN TERMED AS
OPTIMISTIC DEVELOPMENTS IN GREECE AND PORTUGAL. SECDEF AGREED
BUT STESSED THAT FROM MILITARY POINT OF VIEW, REAL DANGER LAY
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IN CENTRAL EUROPE. HE WENT ON TO NOTE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF 90,000 TROOPS IN EAST GERMANY AND POLAND, EXPLAINING THAT SOVIET INTENT IS TO BUILD UP FORCES TO POINT WHERE BUNDESWEHR CAN EASILY BE CONTROLLED. THEREFORE, SECRETARY SAID, IT IS VITAL THAT WEST MAINTAIN ITS DEFENSES AND NOT ALLOW WARSAW PACT MILITARY POWER TO REMAIN UNMATCHED. IF SOVIETS SEE THAT WEST IS LOWERING DEFENSES, WESTERN MBFR NEGOTIATION POSITION WILL BE WEAKENED. SECDEF WENT ON TO OBSERVE THAT THE RELATIVE WEIGHT OF THE DEFENSE BURDEN IS INCREASINGLY BEING BORNE BY FRG, INASMUCH AS OTHERS ARE NOT DOING THEIR SHARE. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS REALLY POSED MORE OF A PROBLEM FOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THAN IT DID FOR USG.

10. PRIMIN THEN EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT WEST WOULD CONTINUE TO LOOK FOR ALL POSSIBILITIES LEADING TOWARDS DETENTE, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGED POSSIBLE PITFALLS IN SO DOING. SECDEF REPLIED THAT WESTERN LEADERS HAD POLITICAL AND MORAL OBLIGATIONS TO THEIR PEOPLES TO CONTINUE PRESSING FOR DETENTE. HOWEVER, HE STRESSED THAT SOVIETS HAD TO SHOW SOME SIGNS OF POSITIVE REACTION ON THEIR PART NOT ONLY EXTERNALLY BUT INTERNALLY AS WELL. WHATEVER PROGRESS IS MADE TOWARD DETENTE, THE BALANCE OF POWER MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO SHIFT TO THE EAST.

11. IN THIS REGARD, JORGENSEN REFERRED TO DISCUSSIONS HE HAD HELD IN HELSINKI WITH HONECKER OF DDR. HONECKER HAD CHARACTERIZED BALTIC AS "SEA OF PEACE". JORGENSEN HAD AGREED WITH THIS TERMINOLOGY BUT REMINDED HIM THAT CONSTANT MILITARY MANEUVERS WITH PLANES AND LANDING CRAFT BY DDR NAVY ENROACHING ON DANISH TERRITORY DID NOT SEEM TO REFLECT "SEA OF PEACE" MENTALITY. MOD MOLLER THEN INTERJECTED REMARK THAT DDR NAVY KEPT COMING CLOSER AND CLOSER TO DANISH TERRITORY AND HAD BEEN OBSERVED FOLLOWING DANISH SHIPS THREE TIMES IN PAST WEEK.

12. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER SAID THIS WAS TYPICAL OF PROBLEMS WEST HAD IN NEGOTIATING AGREEMENTS WITH EAST. SALT WAS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS - WHERE SOVIETS HAD RESPECTED AGREEMENT BUT NEVERTHELESS CONTINUED TO PROBE FOR WEAK POINTS. HE SAID HE HAD NOT HEARD ABOUT DDR PRESSURES BUT WAS NOT SURPRISED AS THIS WAS PART OF GENERAL PATTERN. AT THIS POINT MOD MOLLER REFERRED TO SEPTEMBER 11 SPEECH BY HONECKER WHICH TOOK HARD

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LINE AND SEEMED TO BE AT ODDS WITH SPIRIT OF HELSINKI. (TEXT WILL BE CABLED SEPARATELY.)

13. PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN THEN RAISED THE OLD QUESTION OF A BRIDGE BETWEEN FUNEN AND ZEALAND SPANNING THE GREAT BELT (THE ONLY DEEP-PASSAGE FROM THE BALTIC TO THE NORTH SEA). HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE WILL BE SOME SERIOUS HURDLES TO OVER-

COME THE DANISH PARLIAMENT (FOLKETING) WOULD SOON APPROVE ITS CONSTRUCTION. JORGENSEN RECALLED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE CONTINUED THEIR OBJECTION TO THE BRIDGE AND WENT ON TO NOTE THAT, NORMALLY, DENMARK HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BUT THAT ONE HAD ALWAYS TO BE CAREFUL. SECDEF REPLIED THAT IF SOVIETS RESPECT MILITARY POSTURE OF WEST, THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM. HOWEVER, GREATEST CONCERN WAS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WHEN NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS TAKES OVER IN USSR. THOSE ABOUT TO RETIRE MAINTAIN SINCERE RESPECT AND FEAR FOR GERMANY, BUT YOUNGER GROUP MIGHT BE MORE TEMPTED TO EXPLOIT THE NEWLY-ACQUIRED SOVIET MILITARY POTENTIAL AND, THEREFORE, WEST MUST BE WARY INDEED.

14. MEETING CONCLUDED WITH PRIMIN THANKING SCHLESINGER FOR HIS VISIT AND EXPRESSING HOPE THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO DENMARK AGAIN FOR LONGER PERIOD. PRIMIN THEN ACCOMPANIED SECDEF TO FOLKETING FOR LATTER'S SPEECH.
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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COPENH00280
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750996/aaaagmh.z.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 22 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 JUL 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971002
Subject: OPTIMISTIC DEVELOPMENTS IN GREECE AND PORTUGAL
TAGS: PFOR, GR, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006